



OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

# OBLATES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

WILMINGTON-PHILADELPHIA PROVINCE

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POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 27, 2018

Mr. Ray Alcaraz  
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales  
P.O. Box 87  
Childs, MD 21916-0087

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman  
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Nanci Langley  
Commissioner Mark Acton  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, Catholic religious congregation, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

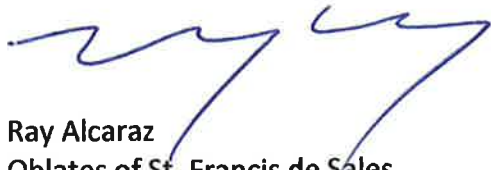
A large portion of our mail is sending prayer cards to individuals who request them so they may use them to offer prayers to those who are sick or to families of those who have died.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will greatly impact our efforts in primarily raising funds to care for our retired and infirm priests and brothers.



Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ray Alcaraz', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ray Alcaraz  
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales  
Wilmington/Delaware Province